

Lee TAVENNER
Solar Plexus

Kogan, Wayne Lee, Rep

EXHIBIT 9
DATE 3/21/2011
SB 226
any solar Plexus

RE: SB 226

Mr Chairman, Members of the Committee; my name is Lee Tavenner.

This bill is based on the false premise that net metering is a subsidy for solar customers. This is simply not true. Net metering is clearly a subsidy for the utility.

Solar energy reduces transmission costs. All of the solar energy produced by the customer is used either by the customer himself or by his neighbors in the local area. None of this solar energy ever enters the transmission system, and most of this solar energy uses only a miniscule portion of the distribution system.

Remember, state law does not allow any credit for solar production that exceeds what the customer uses. The best the customer can do is offset all of the power he uses. Although the timing is changed, on an annual basis the customer is never credited for more power than he produces.

Most of the power the customer produces is power he uses himself at the same time it is produced. This power never enters the transmission system or the distribution system. It never even enters the utility's lines.

The power the customer "banks" is delivered to his neighbor, not back to the central power plant, so it never enters the transmission system and it uses only a small portion of the distribution system.. So the transmission cost this bill is trying to charge to net metering does not exist. Charging it to the solar customer is a tax on solar energy and a subsidy for the utility.

Net metering is not allowed for projects larger than 50 KW, so most wind projects are excluded.

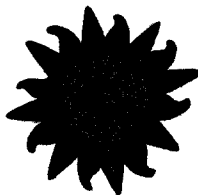
→ Solar energy provides peak power for the utility.

Solar energy is banked by the solar customer during daytime. Daytime is peak time for energy, and wherever energy vales are tracked, daytime and summer time energy is worth more than night-time energy, in many cases almost twice as much. The solar producer offsets his own energy usage and delivers power to his neighbor during daytime and summer, when energy is worth the most, and an this power is returned to the customer by the utility at night, when energy is worth the least. This amounts to a savings for the utility.

I urge you to vote no on this bill.

Lee Tavenner
Missoula, MT

This is true regardless of whether Northwest
Energy is awarded it.



Re: SB 226

Chairman, members of the committee:

Solar Plexus LLC currently employs 3 full time individuals and 2 part time individuals all with 100% health benefits.

In addition we subcontract with the following Montana based companies and contractors:

- 3 engineering firms
- 2 architecture firms
- 5 insurance companies including State Fund
- 2 accounting firms
- 2 law firms
- 2 phone companies
- 2 IT firms
- 2 printing/office companies
- 1 local bank
- 2 local auto repair/ dealers
- 18 electricians
- 2 roofing companies
- 2 remodeling companies
- 2 metal fabrication companies
- 1 energy monitoring company
- 2 energy efficient lighting companies

We rent equipment from rental shops nearest the project location.

We purchase wire, conduit, and other electrical components from 3 Missoula distributors.

We purchase batteries from a Missoula Distributor.

We purchase misc hardware from 3 Missoula Distributors.

We are a factory direct preferred contractor for Sharp Electronics Solar Products, which are manufactured in the USA.

In addition we supply and install systems in 8 different states generating revenue from federal and private sources that would otherwise be unavailable to the Montana Tax Base.

We urge you to kill this bill.

Thanks, The Solar Plexus Team.